

## Transcript

Station: **CHANNEL 7** Date: **30/08/2006**  
 Program: **SEVEN NEWS** Time: **06:16 PM**  
 Compere: **KAY MCGRATH AND ROD YOUNG** Summary ID: **B00023244445**

Item: **SPECIALISTS ARE NOTICING A BIG INFLUX IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM DRY EYES DUE TO THE DROUGHT IN SOUTH-EAST QLD.**

**INTERVIEWEES: BETTY LANAGAN, EYE PATIENT**

**SIMON HURWOOD, OPTOMETRIST**

**DR PETER CRANSTON**

Demographics:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people	ABs	GBs
	73192	102290	175683	15350	101921

**KAY MCGRATH:** The drought is having an impact on much more than our dam levels, it's also affecting our health. Specialists are noticing a big influx in the number of people suffering from the frustrating condition of dry eyes.

**CATHY WEIS:** Betty Lanagan is one of the many patients visiting an optometrist with the same complaint.

**BETTY LANAGAN:** They were a bit red a couple of days ago.

**CATHY WEIS:** It's known as dry eyes and is often experienced during the cooler months and the westerly winds.

**BETTY LANAGAN:** They just get gritty and watery and they're just, generally, irritated.



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- CATHY WEIS: And this year it's affecting a lot more people.
- SIMON HURWOOD: In my own experience it's probably a 30 or 40 percent increase on this time last year.
- CATHY WEIS: While it's common in people with arthritis and other auto-immune diseases, it can affect anyone.
- DR PETER CRANSTON: It's not sight threatening under normal circumstances, but certainly it causes ongoing frustration for people.
- CATHY WEIS: And experts are blaming the drought for an increase in cases.
- SIMON HURWOOD: I think it's the dryness, without doubt.
- CATHY WEIS: But it can be controlled. Drops that lubricate the eye are a common treatment. Taking fish oil supplements is also recommended.
- SIMON HURWOOD: Fish oils can improve the quality of the tears that you've got, therefore reduce the symptoms that you might otherwise experience.
- CATHY WEIS: The warmer, more humid conditions of spring will help ease symptoms for some, but for others it's the start of a whole new problem.
- DR PETER CRANSTON: Traditionally, people who are prone to allergic problems, people who have hay fever and what we



call allergic conjunctivitis, their worst time of the year are the spring months of September and October.

CATHY WEIS:

Thankfully, there is also treatment to relieve those symptoms. Cathy Weis, *Seven News*.

\* \* **END** \* \*

**TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED BY MEDIA MONITORS**  
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ADELAIDE	BRISBANE	CANBERRA	HOBART	MELBOURNE	PERTH	SYDNEY
08 8362 2323	07 3259 2100	02 6124 5200	03 6224 2000	03 9348 9191	08 9228 5800	02 9318 4000

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ABs = Managers, administrators, professions. GBs = Grocery buyers.

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